

Southern Range Limits of the Rufous-crowned Emu-Wren.—Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 5th ed., 1976) give the southern boundary of the Rufous-crowned Emu-Wren (*Stipiturus ruficeps*) as North West Cape, Wiluna and Naretha. On the peninsula projecting northwards as North West Cape, it is plentiful and inhabits big domes of *Triodia* (Carter, *Emu* 3, 1903: 37); in the vicinity of Wiluna, it was collected by Whitlock (*Emu*, 1910, 9: 181-219) on *Triodia* sandplain at Borewell; and near Naretha, Collins (*S. Aust. Orn.*, 1943, 12: 198-201) recorded it in the semi-arid mallee-*Triodia* country to the north, not in the shrub steppe of the Nullarbor Plain.

Some recent observations extend these limits further south. Moriarty (*Emu* 72: 1972: 5) lists it as occurring in open shrub-land on *Triodia*-sandplain on Wanjarri, 95 kilometres south-south-east of Wiluna. G. M. Storr and I saw a party on *Triodia*-marble gum-blackboy sandplain with dunes, 66 kilometres south-west of Wiluna, on the Sandstone road on September 4, 1966.

Still further south, I saw five pairs and/or parties on the plateau of the Kennedy Range, near Range Bore, east of Carnarvon, on May 21-22, 1975. A pair was collected for the Western Australian Museum and an empty nest was found in a clump of *Triodia*. The birds were in pure domes of *Triodia* and in *Triodia* mixed with low heath shrubs, *Hakea*, *Calothamnus* and *Pileanthus*. The plateau of the Kennedy Range is covered with longitudinal sand dunes and sandplain vegetated mainly with *Triodia* and several heath shrubs including *Bauksia ashbyi*, *Verticordia forrestii*, *Pileanthus peduncularis*, *Calytrix muricata* and *Grevillea eriostachya*.

Ford and Parker (*Emu*, 1974: 184) point out that the distributions of *Stipiturus ruficeps* (including its subspecies *mallee*) and the Striated Grass-Wren (*Amytornis striatus*) are both dependent on *Triodia*, so are fairly similar. I searched without success for *A. striatus* on the Kennedy Range. An interesting locality additional to those listed by Ford and Parker for *A. striatus* is the marble gum—*Triodia* sandplain with dunes, 10 km west of Agnew; here N. Kolichis, while with P. J. Fuller and me, saw an individual on July 18, 1975.

Eckert (*S. Aust. Orn.*, 27, 1977: 186) shows that in South Australia the emu-wrens *S. malachurus* and *S. ruficeps mallee* are marginally sympatric. The inland-most occurrence of *S. malachurus* in Western Australia is from sandplain-heath, 56 kilometres south-east of Mt. Holland (Ford, *W.A. Naturalist*, 1970, 11: 117) a huge distance from the nearest record of *S. r. ruficeps*. The closest area of contact between these species in Western Australia appears to be on the mid-western coast because *malachurus* occurs on Dirk Hartog Island and *ruficeps* is on the *Triodia* sandplains between North-West Cape and the Kennedy Range.

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Ecological Notes on Carnac Island Tiger Snakes.—Carnac I. is one of only three islands around the Western Australian coast known to have populations of Tiger Snakes *Notechis scutatus*, present. During 1975-77 I spent 70 days on Carnac I. during which I recorded the distribution, abundance and length (estimated) of nearly all snakes seen on the island. Each visit was of one week, during which all parts of the island were walked over many times.

Carnac I. is small (area 16 ha), low (maximum elevation 17 m), and about 4 km north of Garden I. and 8 km west of Woodman Point. It is part of a calcarenite ridge, now largely submerged, and lacks swamps, the usual habitat of Tiger Snakes on mainland Western Australia (Glauert, *W.A. Nat.*, 1, 1948: 139-141). There are no frog species, but four colonial nesting seabird species breed there. In order of abundance these are Silver Gull, Bridled Tern, Crested Tern and Wedge-tailed Shearwater. Gull chicks were recorded as eaten by snakes by Nicholls (*Aust. J. Zool.*, 22, 1974: 63-70). Mice are also present, and doubtless form part of the diet. Before 1969 Rabbits occurred, and I have been told that they were eaten by snakes.